

M E M O R A N D U M

April 2, 1968

TO: JIM GARRISON, District Attorney

FROM: ANDREW J. SCIAMBRA, Assistant D. A.

RE: Interview with MRS. DORIS LONG DOWELL,  
915 Elliot Aven.; Charlottesville, Va.  
Telephone 296-5326.

Employed at Cedars Rest Home  
2141 Barracks Road  
Telephone - 296-5611.

SUBJECT: KERRY THORNLEY

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Through interviewing various people employed at the Shirlington House apartments, Arlington, Virginia, we were told that we should contact Mrs. DORIS LONG DOWELL for information concerning KERRY THORNLEY.

MRS. DOWELL, who was assistant manager when THORNLEY worked at the Shirlington House, was one of the people who came into contact with THORNLEY every day. She said she believes she can remember THORNLEY came to the Shirlington House with a good application showing past employment in New Orleans, Louisiana. She doesn't know how he came to the Shirlington House, but believes that it was in answer to an ad they had in the paper. (Mrs. GUCH at 578-4240 in Arlington, Virginia, has promised to send Weisberg a copy of THORNLEY's application along with any other information that she may have concerning him.)

THORNLEY told them that he was a writer and wanted a job so that he would have time to write. His hours of employment were from 1:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.. He earned \$60.00 a week and lived in the apartment house paying \$120.00 a month for an apartment.

She said that she and a Mrs. MC INTYRE had the most contact with THORNLEY, and that both agreed that THORNLEY was a very strange person. Mrs. McINTYRE, who is an elderly lady, took a liking to THORNLEY and tried to help him by giving him pieces of furniture for his apartment. MRS. DOWELL said that about one month before THORNLEY left for California he told her that he had been in the Marine Corps with LEE HARVEY OSWALD, and also that they were buddies in New Orleans. He said that he had met OSWALD again in New Orleans, and that they had met at a place in the French Quarter that she would probably not like. She later on said that THORNLEY told her about a place in the French Quarter that he used to constantly go to named the Bourbon House and he described the Bourbon House as as a place that she would not like because of the type of people who went there. When she told THORNLEY that she would not brag about knowing LEE HARVEY OSWALD, THORNLEY became very angry and told her that LEE HARVEY OSWALD was misunderstood by everyone, and that nobody really knew him. She said that he insisted that LEE HARVEY OSWALD was not a Communist. (This was before his Warren Commission testimony.)

She said that McINTYRE who was the

Manager at the time that THORNLEY worked there and could probably give us more information on THORNLEY as she thought THORNLEY was a nice boy. Mrs. McINTYRE is now managing an apartment on Connecticut Street in Washington, D. C. MRS. DOWELL said she can remember KERRY giving her a copy of a newspaper from California, called the Innovator. She said she looked at the newspaper and then told him that the paper sounded like it was Communist newspaper. As a result of this remark, THORNLEY became furious and ran to his room and got a shirt that she had given him for Christmas present and threw the shirt into the incinerator to burn. He then told her that she was ignorant if she thought that the newspaper was a communist newspaper, and that he was a writer for the paper; that nobody was going to call him a Communist. She said THORNLEY left the Shirlington House to go to the Freedom School in Colorado and told her before he left that he intended to come back to the Washington area. She was about to change jobs to the Vista Park Apartment House in Landham, Maryland (about 30 minutes out of Washington). THORNLEY told her that when he came back to the Washington area he would live in one of the apartments where she was working, and gave her a month's rent. However, when he came back from the Freedom School in September of 1964, he contacted her and told her that he would not be moving into the Vista Park Apartments. He said he was staying in Washington, D. C., or Arlington, Virginia, with a friend of his. She said she believes that this must have been the boy she saw KERRY with on 2 or 3 occasions, who was around his own age. She cannot account for any of KERRY's activities outside of his working hours as he was not the type of person to talk about or tell people what he was doing. He would talk, however, about New Orleans as the place that he had just come from, and that when he left he was going to California. He also told her that she would not like the French Quarter. She also said that outside of this one boy she saw with KERRY 2 or 3 times she had never seen THORNLEY with anyone else and could not say whether or not he knew any other people in the Arlington or Washington areas. When he returned from the Freedom School he said he would be in Washington only until he could straighten out his business then he was going to California. She said she had no idea of what business he could be straightening out. MRS. DOWELL then gave me a picture of THORNLEY with some people taken at the Freedom School in Colorado. She said THORNLEY never mentioned anything about a Mexican trip that he had taken.

While looking through my pictures she described NOVEL as being on the type of the young man she had seen with THORNLEY, but could not say whether or not it was him. She also picked out the picture of EUGENE BRADLEY and said that she had definitely seen him before but could not say where. She thought that he might be in the picture with THORNLEY at the Freedom School but he is not. She said THORNLEY used to receive mail from New Orleans from a girl that he knew in the French Quarter, but cannot recall the name.

She said that THORNLEY was working at the Shirlington House when she started working there in December of 1963. She also said that COURTNEY rings a bell, but cannot place where. She said we should talk to MRS. NANCY LUKE who is the manager of the Huntington Apartments at 5225 Connecticut Avenue in Washington, D. C.

She said that THORNLEY and MRS. LUKE disliked each other very much and that MRS. LUKE called THORNLEY a communist after listening to him talk and reading the Innovator. KERRY became furious at being called a Communist, and ran to MR. SAFER who was the owner of the apartment, and told him that MRS. LUKE called him a Communist and that if he did not fire her immediately he was going to sue the apartment house. MR. SAFER, displaying great "Americanism" immediately fired MRS. LUKE. Some other people who may be able to give us some information on THORNLEY are:

MRS. OREN D. KENELEY, who was working at the Shirlington House at the time, and who now lives in West Springfield, Va.

MRS. EUNICE GRIFFITH, who is still employed at the Shirlington House, and,

MR. SAFER, who was the owner of Shirlington House at that time, and,

MRS. GUCH, Mr. Safer's secretary.

Telephone 578-4240, Arlington, Va.

To: Archiver  
Re: Thornley

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